

Application No.:10/076,551

In reply to Office Action of September 12, 2003

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to change the Title and the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the sum of o and p is from 5 to 10 when x represents a single bond, which supported by the application as originally filed.

Newly added Claims 82 and 118 are supported by the specification at page 18, line 10, which describes methanesulfonic acid salts, i.e., mesylates.

Newly-added independent Claim 83 is supported by the specification at page 15, lines 1-2.

Claims 84-115, 119, and 120 are supported by the original claims and the specification.

Newly-added Claims 116-117 correspond to Claims 31 and 32, now canceled.

Newly-added Claims 83-120 are supported by the specification and the original claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments submitted above.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14-29, 32-35, 42-49, 52, and 80-120 remain pending.

At the outset, Applicants would like to thank Examiner McKenzie for indicating that Claims 18, 20, 24-26, 28, 31-38, and 42-49 are allowable as set forth at page 9 of the Official Action dated September 12, 2003. Favorable reconsideration of all of the pending claims is respectfully requested at this time.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for the helpful and courteous discussion held with their representative on November 23, 2003. During that discussion, amendments to overcome the cited publication, with reference to the allowable claims. In addition, the Examiner indicated that Claim 52 would be favorably reconsidered.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Epan is believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the sum of o and p is from 5 to 10 when x represents a single bond. Applicants note that Claim 33 was indicated as allowable. That claim is directed to a specific structure in which the sum of o and p is 5. Accordingly, Claim 1 as amended and claims which depend directly or indirectly therefrom are believed to be allowable.

Newly-added Claim 83 specifies that "at least one R<sup>6</sup> is other than hydrogen as defined above." Thus, that claim is based on Claim 24, which specifies that one R<sup>6</sup> is other than hydrogen as defined in the main claim. Applicants submit that Epan does not suggest di- or higher-substituted compounds.

Newly-added Claims 116-117 correspond to Claims 31 and 32, which were indicated to be allowable.

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Based on the foregoing, the claimed compounds, compositions, and methods are not suggested by Epend. Accordingly, the pending claims are not obvious over that reference. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

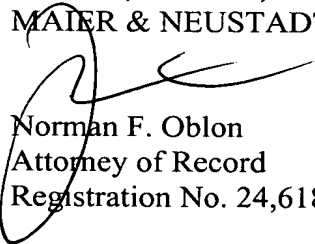
The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is also believed to be obviated by the amendment submitted above. The specification certainly provides a description of how to use the claimed compounds to block sodium channels. Accordingly, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

The Title and the Abstract have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants note that a description of the Figures is provided at page 11 of the specification.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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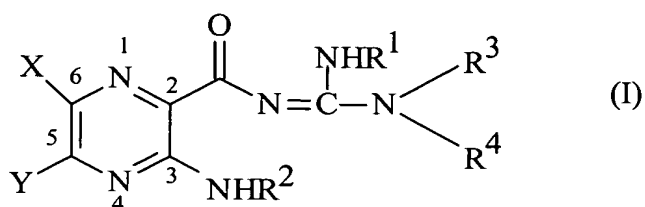
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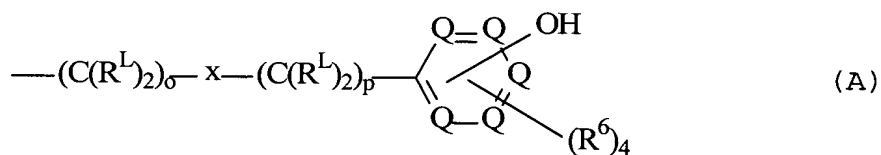
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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to compounds represented by formula (I):



in which at least one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is a group represented by formula (A):



where the structural variables are defined herein. The compounds are useful for blocking sodium channels.